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RM 9242

September 27, 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Commissioners  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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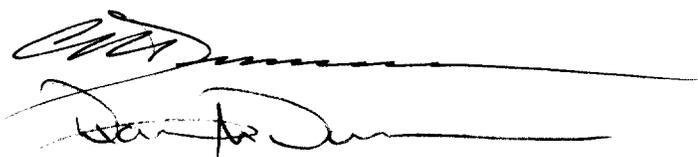
Dear Commissioner and Staff:

Attached for your interest is a recent Radio World article describing results of an (admittedly informal) survey which asked "...Is the FCC taking appropriate action against...unlicensed [broadcast] radio operators".

We believe you will find the comments and percentages surprising and illuminating, even more so considering most of the survey respondents were associated with the established broadcast community. They were, however, the "working stiffs", not the ownership elite.

This article appears to confirm that a majority of American citizens, at least those with any interest in broadcast issues, favor expanded free speech in the form of a so-called microbroadcasting, or LPFM service.

Sincerely,



Curt R. Dunnam  
Diane M. Dunnam

5244 Perry City Rd.  
Trumansburg, NY 14886

attach: (1)  
cc: Hon. A. Houghton

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# Few Kind Words for FCC Busts

*Respondents to an Online Survey See  
The Heavy Hand of Government at Work*

A recent survey of visitors to our Web site shows how varied are your opinions on low-power radio.

We asked visitors: "Recent FCC enforcement actions against so-called radio pirates have made the headlines around the country. Is the FCC taking appropriate action against these unlicensed operators?"

The response: an overwhelming 82 percent said No.

An informal survey like this is not scientific, and it tends to invite comments from the most vocal opponents of the status quo. Nevertheless it demonstrates the strong feelings abroad.

## Gestapo tactics

We asked how visitors would change FCC enforcement. Many respondents, including some who work at licensed stations, proposed draconian measures or revealed belligerence toward the FCC or the NAB. These are typical:

"The FCC is using German Gestapo tactics. They should be using their efforts to solve an interesting First Amendment question. This is the United States, not some Fascist country. Why is the NAB allowed to dictate the control of the U.S. airwaves?"

"I would get the rich bastards in the NAB off of the FCC's back, that way the FCC could run experiments with community radio and see what good it actually does."

"The NAB are the real pirates that have stolen the airwaves from the average American citizen and have commercially exploited radio ... Micropower broadcasting by average citizen engineers offers program content which stands on its own without having to be ok'd and paid for by corporations. Leave these stations alone. Deregulation means deregulation."

"The FCC needs to follow the law they are held to uphold. They made a mockery of the Communications Acts of 1927-1934."

"The only time that the FCC should shut a station down, is when it interferes with

vital communications, such as emergency frequencies and air control frequencies. So long as no one is being hurt, the FCC should keep its ugly head uninvolved."

"Abolish the FCC altogether."

Other respondents took a more thoughtful tone:

"Congress should change the laws that serve as a prior restraint on free speech for 'pirates,' and allow low-power broadcasting — so long as there is no RF interference."

"They should consider licensing these

**'Bring back the Class D or educational designation. Allow 10-watt community stations again.'**

— Survey respondent

low-power stations as it would allow the government to receive more funds via fees and perhaps change the face of radio by giving us commercial broadcasters a run for the money."

"The Telecom Act has not done what it was supposed to do. There is *less* diversity, *fewer* independent stations, *less* competition. The pirates are a symptom, they are not the disease."

"Suspend prosecutions pending a final rule on RM-9208 and/or RM-9242. Provide retroactive amnesty if microradio is ultimately made legal again. Waive the suspension and possible amnesty if pirates can be shown to be: (1) broadcasting *and* (2) neglecting to take action, when and if necessary, to eliminate any damaging interference."

"Don't enforce regulations against part-time pirates that don't cause interference; only attack full-time and irresponsible operations."

"Licensed broadcasters should note why such a movement has gained so much momentum, they need look no far-

ther than their programming practices."

"Reinstitute no-knock inspections on licensed broadcasters."

At least one respondent had no sympathy for unlicensed radio stations, writing simply: "Shut them down."

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Most readers of **RW** work in licensed radio facilities, but tend to be muted on this topic. What do *you* think? Let me know.

We feature a new radio question each week on our Web site. To take part or see

past replies, visit [www.rwonline.com](http://www.rwonline.com)

While I'm on the subject: engineer John Bisset, author of our popular *Workbench* column, says his industry colleagues are getting a lot of use out of our new site. One engineer likes knowing that he can tap in from his transmitter site when he needs a supplier phone number and doesn't have a copy of **RW** at hand.

## Online answers

The online Product & Service Directory comes to the rescue. If you need to contact an equipment or service supplier, go there first, and don't forget to bookmark the site.

If you have suggestions for improving our Web presence, drop me a line via e-mail at [radioworld@imaspub.com](mailto:radioworld@imaspub.com)

★ ★ ★

This is our big preview issue for The NAB Radio Show, and I hope you find it useful. Session previews, exhibit listings and a look at the radio career of Dr.

*Burk puts you in control.*